

INDEMNITY AND SLAVERY.

RESOLUTIONS

OF

THE LEGISLATURE OF TEXAS,

PROTESTING

Against the relinquishment by the United States of conquered Mexican provinces or States in their possession without indemnity; and also against any law which shall be intended to prevent the citizens of slaveholding States from taking their property with them in emigrating to said acquired territory.

FEBRUARY 28, 1848.

Referred to the Committee on Military Affairs, and ordered to be printed.

JOINT RESOLUTIONS

Requesting the Senators and Representatives of Texas in the Congress of the United States to protest against the relinquishment of the Mexican provinces or States conquered by, and in possession of, the United States, without indemnity; and also to protest against any law which shall be intended to prevent the citizens of slaveholding States from taking their property with them in emigrating to said acquired territory.

SECTION 1. *Be it resolved by the Legislature of the State of Texas,* That, in the opinion of this body, the existing war between the United States and Mexico was rendered necessary, and was brought on by the acts and outrages of the latter; that its moral responsibilities, therefore, must devolve upon that nation alone; and that it would be, under such circumstances, derogatory to the rights and dignity of the United States to surrender to Mexico, by treaty or otherwise, the provinces or States of Mexico which she has been compelled to take possession of and now holds by right of conquest, unless Mexico shall make complete and full indemnity for the injuries and aggressions which provoked the war, and also for the expenses incurred by the United States in the prosecution of it.

SECTION 2. *Be it further resolved,* That while such a course on the part of the United States is demanded by every consideration of justice and self-respect, it is at the same time the opinion of this legislature that the territory which may be permanently held by the United States belongs equally to all the States; and that any attempt by the federal

government to prevent the citizens of the slaveholding States from taking their property, of whatever description, with them, in emigrating to and settling in said acquired territory, would be a violation of the constitution, an insult to the southern people, and an outrage upon the sacred rights and privileges which it is the object of all good governments to protect.

SECTION 3. *Be it further resolved*, That our Senators and Representatives in Congress be requested to protest against and oppose such a relinquishment of territory, and such an unlawful restriction upon the south, as alluded to above; and that said members be furnished each with a copy of these resolutions.

JAMES W. HENDERSON,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

JOHN A. GREER,
President of the Senate.

Approved February 2, 1848.

GEORGE T. WOOD.

AUSTIN, TEXAS, February 3, 1848.

The foregoing is a correct copy from the original roll on file in the Department of State.

W. D. MILLER,
Secretary of State.